MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Captain Rodney McDaniel (USN), OPEI

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Ambassador Carlucci, DDCI

FROM : [ ] Special Assistant for

25X1 Warning and Crisis Operations

SUBJECT : Future of CONTEXT/DISCON

REFERENCE : Report on the Intelligence Community, by the DCI dated January 1978

1. Action Requested: Choice of Alternatives listed under "Recommendation" of this memorandum.

2. Background: In the 1978 Report on the Intelligence Community by the DCI to the President and Congress (reference above) we have committed ourselves to the CONTEXT system to allow remote conferencing among senior analysts and officials across the Intelligence Community (pps. 28, 59). The system is now undergoing final engineering tests and is being readied for operational testing and training. With the reorganization of the IC Staff, however, the management and operation of the system must be transferred elsewhere. The system has been designed primarily to accommodate the needs of community analysts particularly during tension, warning and crisis situations. NSA has made the greatest contributions to the development of the system while the Information Handling Committee has furnished (up until 1 July 1978) the project officer [ ]

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3. An addition to CONTEXT is the display conferencing (DISCON) system which will allow maps and other graphic material to be displayed and discussed in the conference. DISCON is due for a feasibility demonstration within the next two months. Funding for both CONTEXT and DISCON would be transferred to the new manager. Current and estimated funding is:

	FY-78	FY-79	FY-80 (Estimate)
CONTEXT			
DISCON			

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*includes a central processor and extension of the system to executive levels including the EOB.

4. The management and community coordination functions would require a minimum of two full time personnel, one mid-level manager (GS14/15) and one administrative assistant (GS9/10). Community participation has largely been arranged on a part-time basis. *No positions are currently available in the IC Staff ceiling for this purpose.*

5. Recommendation:

Option A: Transfer the management and operation of CONTEXT to NFAC with the continued support of NSA for engineering test, inasmuch as the operational system is to be used primarily by analysts.

Option B: Transfer the management and operation of CONTEXT to NSA as executive agent until an Intelligence Community I&W entity is formed to take over the function.

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Option C: Transfer the management and operation of CONTEXT to the NITC with the NITO for Warning directly responsible.

Staff recommendation:

Option ___ .